

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, amendments to the language of claims 15, 29, 32 and 43 will have been submitted. Entry of each of these amendments in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R § 1.312 is respectfully requested.

Although an Applicant does not have a right to amend an application once a Notice of Allowance has been issued closing prosecution, Applicant respectfully submits that entry of the present amendments are appropriate and proper in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

In particular, claims 15 and 32 will have been amended merely to improve the grammar thereof and to ensure full conformance of the language of the claims with English grammar, syntax and idiom. Claims 29 and 43 will have been amended to ensure accuracy and self-consistency of the language thereof.

None of the above-noted proposed changes continue prosecution of the present application. As can clearly be seen by reference to the language of the respective claims, these proposed amendments do not affect the scope of the claims, but merely improve the language of the claims. Further, since a complete copy of all the claims is being submitted herewith, the above changes do not impose a significant burden on the Patent and Trademark Office personnel.

On the other hand, by improving the grammar and language of the claims as well as by ensuring self-consistency and accuracy of the language of the claims, the herein proposed amendments reinforce and enhance the clarity and thus the validity of the claims of the patent to issue from the present application. Accordingly, entry of the

P23970.A02

present amendment in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 is respectfully requested.

Applicant further notes that the present application issued on the first action and that of the 43 claims pending herein, only minor changes are being made to the language of four claims. For this additional reason, entry of the present Amendment is appropriate and proper.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to exercise his discretion and approve the present Amendment for entry.

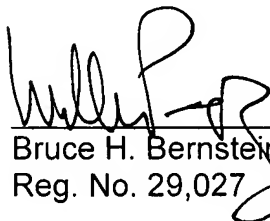
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

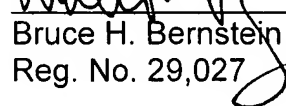
By the present Amendment, Applicant has submitted an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 for entry herein. Applicant has pointed out precisely how entry of the present Amendment is proper in accordance with the provisions of C.F.R. § 1.312. Thus Applicant respectfully requests such entry in due course.

The amendments made to the claims by this amendment, have not been made to overcome the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability. Accordingly, no estoppel should be deemed to attach to these changes or to the present claims.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Takuji HAMASAKI


William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

December 30, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191